

COVID-19

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Structural Guidance for Outdoor Business Operations

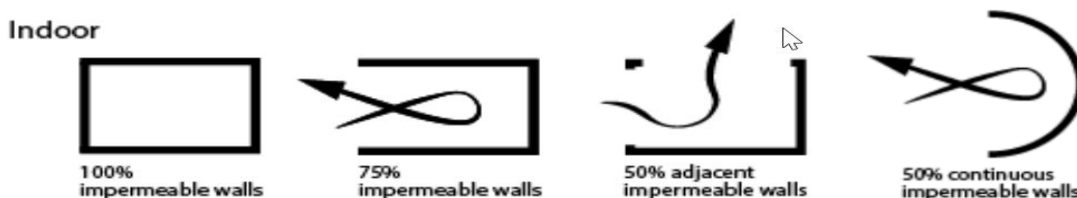
In order to reduce the risk of transmission from COVID-19, the Health Officer Order (“Order”) requires that specific businesses only operate outdoors. Businesses should consider best practices to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, to prevent heat-related illnesses, and to avoid injuries from use of outdoor heaters. This document outlines the parameters businesses must follow to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission for customers in these temporary structures and to qualify as outdoor operations¹ under CDPH's guidance. It must be used in conjunction with County sector specific guidance and reopening protocols, which include sector-specific requirements for the use of masks, dining table distancing, physical distancing, signage, and infection control measures. These can be found at: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/reopening-la.htm>.

More specific State guidance on Temporary Outdoor Structures can be found at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Use-of-Temporary-Structures-for-Outdoor-Business-Operations.aspx>

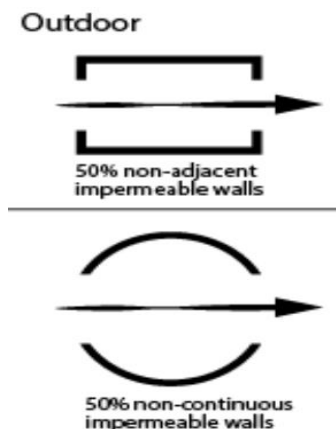
Structures Classified as Indoors

A structure is considered indoors when it has 75%-100% impermeable walls or when 50% of the structure has either adjacent impermeable walls or a continuous impermeable wall. These types of indoor structures are not permitted for outdoor operations.



Structures Classified as Outdoors

- Business operations conducted under a covering (e.g., tent, canopy, other shade structure) without walls are permitted, as this allows for open-air ventilation and rapid dispersal of droplets/aerosols.
- Business operations may be conducted under outdoor coverings with walls provided that **no more than 50%** of the structure's perimeter has impermeable walls, allowing sufficient, unrestricted movement of air and resulting in cross-ventilation.
- Any walls that are used in outdoor structures must be non-adjacent and non-continuous. Doors, windows, and other portals do not make a wall “non-continuous.” Adjacent walls are walls that touch each other and form a corner.



¹ The definition of "outdoor operations" set forth in this guidance pertains exclusively to the use of that term to classify a setting as indoors or outdoors under the California Blueprint for a Safer Economy. It does not pertain to nor is it meant to alter, modify, or supersede existing law on the definition or use of that term in any existing Title 8 regulation, including but not limited to Title 8 section 3395.

COVID-19

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Structural Guidance for Outdoor Business Operations

- Consult with your local building & safety and zoning departments for any required permits or approvals before erecting an outdoor structure.

Physical/Social Distancing and Infection Control

- Develop and implement a pedestrian traffic plan to ensure physical distancing protocols are followed.
- Consider designating one entrance and one exit in order to monitor occupancy of the outdoor area.
- Adhere to occupancy limits specified in the County Order or applicable reopening protocols.
- See all applicable County reopening protocols and guidance for additional modifications to ensure physical distancing and for table distancing and infection control requirements at the LACDPH website listed above.
- Barriers are required when there is a pedestrian walkway that cannot be separated from business operations to allow for the required six feet distance between customers and pedestrians. See barrier guidance for additional information: <http://ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/food/GuidanceUseofBarriers.pdf>.

Additional Safety Measures

- Inspect walkways regularly to prevent trips and falls (i.e., secure floor conduits/cables).
- Ensure that fire and life safety systems and exits remain functional and available despite temporary modifications.

Addressing Weather and Air Quality Concerns

- Obtain approvals or permits for the use of outdoor heaters as required by the local Fire Department and or Building & Safety.
- Avoid heat related illnesses or injuries by adhering to applicable Cal-OSHA regulations (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/heatillnessinfo.html>). In the event of a heat advisory or heat alert, DPH releases an advisory to alert the public and to follow safe practices: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/climatechange/ExtremeHeat.htm>.
- Patio misters are allowed to ensure guests are comfortable in the heat.
- The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) releases advisories to the public regarding poor air quality and where outdoor activity is not advisable or should be curtailed; <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/air-quality-advisories>. DPH also releases air quality advisories to alert the public and follow safe practices; <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/tea/toxicepi/airpollution.htm>.

More specific information on Outdoor Dining can be found at:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/food/GuidanceOutdoorDining.pdf>.